



APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO A
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BOARD, COMMISSION OR COMMITTEE

Date 12-3-10

Planning Commission

Applying for appointment to _____
(Name of Board, Commission or Committee)

Name Kenneth C. Topping

Address _____

Business Phone _____ Home Phone _____

Fax Phone _____ E-mail Address _____

Supervisory District 2 Years resided in County 13

If retired, Past Occupation/Employer

Education

M.S. Public Administration, California State University-Los Angeles, 1972

B.A. Sociology, University of Redlands, 1956

List work experience, training, volunteer activities, skills that relate to your qualifications

Lecturer, City & Regional Planning Dept., Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, 2002-present; Project Director, California State Hazard Mitigation Plan, Cal Poly SLO, 2006-present; President, Topping Associates International, 2004-present; Visiting Professor, Kyoto University, 2002-2004; General Manager, Cambria Community Services District, 1997-2001; Principal, Topping Jaquess Consultants, 1991-97; Planning Director, Los Angeles City, 1986-1990; Planning Director and Deputy Administrator for Community Development; San Bernardino County, 1972-1986 (see attached resume)

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List dates/names of positions you have held on any advisory body or elected office
(representative list) 2006-present, Member, Technical Advisory Committee, New
Orleans Office of Recovery & Development Administration; 1998-2001, Chair, Cambria
Forest Committee; Board Member, Pacific Rim Council on Urban Development; 1982-
1985, Governor's Appointee, California Mining and Geology Board

List Membership to Organizations

1968-present, American Planning Association;

1980-present, Earthquake Engineering Research Institute

Please explain why you would like to serve in this capacity

I have devoted my career to making cities, counties, and regions in the U.S. and other
countries better places through good planning. Becoming a San Luis Obispo County
Planning Commission member represents an opportunity to give back to the larger
community by applying this experience and knowledge in a thoughtful and responsible
manner to make this a more vibrant, resilient, and sustainable County.

If appointed, are you willing to participate in the majority of meetings each year, and if necessary
in numerous related meetings or subcommittees?

☒ YES ☐ NO _____ COMMENTS

If appointed, are you willing, if required, to file a Statement of Disclosure as a Public Official
Under the standards of the Fair Political Practice Commission?

☒ YES ☐ NO _____ COMMENTS

If appointed, do you want to have your address or telephone number(s) published?

☒ YES ☐ NO _____ COMMENTS

KENNETH C. TOPPING, FAICP

Summary

Kenneth C. Topping, FAICP, is president of Topping Associates International, lecturer with the City and Regional Planning Department of California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo, and project director of the State Hazard Mitigation Plan Revision Project undertaken through the University for the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA).

Mr. Topping is former planning director of the City of Los Angeles (1986-1990), where he oversaw preparation and implementation of significant plans and projects. Prior to Los Angeles he was planning director and deputy administrator for development services for the Environmental Public Works Agency, County of San Bernardino (1973-86). After Los Angeles, he was principal, Topping Jaquess Consultants (1991-1997); general manager, Cambria Community Services District, California (1997-2001); and visiting professor, Disaster Prevention Research Institute, Kyoto University, Japan (2002-2004).

Recognized internationally for work integrating city planning with safety and sustainability, he has advised on mitigation and recovery in Australia, China, Korea, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Japan, as well as on New Orleans rebuilding. He was co-principal investigator with Rob Olshansky and Laurie Johnson on a National Science Foundation study comparing post-earthquake redevelopment after the 1994 Northridge Earthquake and 1995 Hanshin-Awaji (Kobe) Earthquake. A consultant to FEMA and the American Planning Association on planning for community resilience, he is a co-author of *Hazard Mitigation: Integrating Best Practices into Planning* (FEMA-APA, 2010) and *Planning for Post-Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction* (FEMA-APA, 1998) with James Schwab and others.

Mr. Topping has pioneered innovations in city planning, stakeholder participation, disaster management, economic development, local government practice, and natural resource conservation. He is currently authoring a chapter on southern California climate change impacts, including water supply, for a book on climate change and the future of U.S. and Australian cities in preparation by the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy (forthcoming). He has held professional leadership roles, written extensively, taught as an adjunct faculty member, and spoken at international and national conferences. For his accomplishments he has been honored through induction as a Member of the College of Fellows, American Institute of Certified Planners (FAICP).

Education

California State University – Los Angeles, M.S. Public Administration, 1972

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Graduate studies in sociology, 1956-57

University of Redlands, B.A. cum laude, Sociology, 1956

Current Positions

2004 – present, President, Topping Associates International, 504 Warwick Street, Cambria, CA 93428

2002 – present, Lecturer, City and Regional Planning Department, California Polytechnic State University – San Luis Obispo, CA

2006 – present, Project Director, State of California Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Revision Project, California Polytechnic State University-SLO and California Governor's Office of Emergency Services

Prior Professional Experience

2002 – 2004, Visiting Professor, Kyoto University Disaster Prevention Research Institute, Japan

1997 – 2001, General Manager, Cambria Community Services District, California
 1991 – 1997, Principal, Topping Jaquess Consultants, Pasadena, California
 1991 – 1992, Adjunct Professor, University of Southern California, Los Angeles
 1986 – 1990, Director of City Planning, City of Los Angeles, California
 1981 – 1986, Deputy Administrator, Environmental Public Works Agency, San Bernardino County
 1973 – 1981, Director of Planning, San Bernardino County, California
 1976 – 1981, Adjunct Associate Professor, University of California Riverside
 1974 – 1975, Adjunct Assistant Professor, California State University, Los Angeles
 1956 – 1973, Regional Planner, Los Angeles County Regional Planning Department, Los Angeles County

Selected Affiliations

Member, American Planning Association
 Member, College of Fellows, American Institute of Certified Planners (FAICP)
 Member, Editorial Board, Journal of Disaster Research, English language journal, Japan
 Member, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), New Orleans Office of Recovery and Development Administration (ORDA), 2008; and National Advisory Team, Unified New Orleans Plan (UNOP), sponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation and Greater New Orleans Foundation, 2006-2007

Representative Publications

"Building Local Capacity for Long-term Disaster Resilience" Part 1, *Journal of Disaster Research*, Volume 5, Number 2 April 2010. Special Issue Editor.

Hazard Mitigation: Integrating Best Practices into Planning. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and American Planning Association (APA). Planners Advisory Service (PAS) Report 483/484. Chicago, Illinois: May 2010. Co-authored with J. Schwab and others.

"Infrastructure and Sustainability: Building Sustainable Cities and Regions," *Proceedings of the U.S.-Japan Joint Seminar on Civil Infrastructure Systems Research*, Multidisciplinary Center for Earthquake Engineering Research, Technical Report MCEER-98-0017, State University of New York, Buffalo, 1998.

Marikina Safety Program. Earthquake Disaster Mitigation Center, Kobe. March 2004. Co-authored with Haruo Hayashi and others.

Planning for Post-Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and American Planning Association (APA). Planners Advisory Service (PAS) Report 483/484. Chicago, Illinois: December 1998. Co-authored with J. Schwab and others.

"Rebuilding Communities Following Disasters: Lessons from Kobe and Los Angeles" *Built Environment*, Vol. 32, November 2006. Co-authored with Robert B. Olshansky and Laurie Johnson.

"Rebuilding the Golden State: Toward a Catastrophic Disaster Recovery Strategy for California" *Cal Planner*. September-October 2008.

2007 State Hazard Mitigation Plan. California Governor's Office of Emergency Services. Co-edited with William Siembieda and Michael Boswell. October 2007.

2010 State Hazard Mitigation Plan. California Emergency Management Agency. Co-edited with William Siembieda and Michael Boswell. October 2010.

"Toward a National Disaster Recovery Act of 2009" *Natural Hazards Observer*, January 2009.

"Urban Planning During Rebuilding: The Machizukuri Experience." *The Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake: Assessment Reports of the Global Assessment of Earthquake Countermeasures, Volume 5*. Hyogo Prefectural Government, Committee for Global Assessment of Earthquake Countermeasures. April 2000.

"Using National Financial Incentives to Build Local Resiliency: The U.S. Disaster Mitigation Act" *Journal of Disaster Research*, Volume 5, Number 2 April 2010.

Recent Speaking Engagements

- Plenary Speaker, Workshop on Land-use Decision Support: Reducing Risk from Hazards, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada, Friday, September 17, 2010
- American Planning Association Annual National Conferences, 2004 – 2010
- Natural Hazards Workshops, 2003 – 2010, Natural Hazards Research and Information Applications Center, Boulder, Colorado
- 8th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference, January 22-24, 2009, Albuquerque, NM
- The National Academies, Disasters Roundtable Workshop, "Disaster Risk Management in an Age of Climate Change," Washington D.D., April 2008
- 2nd International Conference on Urban Disaster Reduction, Taipei, Taiwan, November 2007